



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

***Raised Bill No. 6856***

LCO No. 3535

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:  
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE SECURITY DEPOSIT GUARANTEE PROGRAM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 17b-802 of the general statutes is repealed and the following  
2 is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall establish, within  
4 available appropriations, and administer a security deposit guarantee  
5 program for persons who are recipients of temporary family  
6 assistance, aid under the state supplement program, state-  
7 administered general assistance or general assistance and to persons  
8 who have a documented showing of financial need and are residing in  
9 emergency shelters or other emergency housing or who cannot remain  
10 in permanent housing due to any reason specified in subsection (a) of  
11 section 17b-808 or service of a notice to quit in a summary process  
12 action instituted pursuant to chapter 832, for use by such persons in  
13 lieu of a security deposit on a rental dwelling unit. Eligible persons  
14 may receive a security deposit guarantee in an amount not to exceed  
15 the equivalent of [one month's] two months' rent on such rental unit. [,  
16 except that upon a documented showing of financial need, the

17 commissioner may approve a security deposit guarantee in an amount  
18 not to exceed the equivalent of two month's rent.] No person may  
19 apply for and receive a security deposit guarantee more than once in  
20 any eighteen-month period without the express authorization of the  
21 Commissioner of Social Services, except as provided in subsection (b)  
22 of this section.

23 (b) In the case of any person who qualifies for a guarantee, the  
24 Commissioner of Social Services, or any emergency shelter under  
25 contract with the Department of Social Services to assist in the  
26 administration of the security deposit guarantee program established  
27 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, may execute a written  
28 agreement to pay the landlord for any damages suffered by the  
29 landlord due to the tenant's failure to comply with such tenant's  
30 obligations as defined in section 47a-21, provided the amount of any  
31 such payment shall not exceed the amount of the requested security  
32 deposit. [If] Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this  
33 section, if a person who has previously received a grant for a security  
34 deposit or a security deposit guarantee becomes eligible for a  
35 subsequent security deposit guarantee [,] within eighteen months after  
36 a claim has been paid on a prior security deposit guarantee, such  
37 person may receive a security deposit guarantee, but the amount of the  
38 subsequent security deposit guarantee for which such person would  
39 otherwise have been eligible shall be reduced by (1) any amount of a  
40 previous grant which has not been returned to the department  
41 pursuant to section 47a-21 or (2) the amount of any payment made to  
42 the landlord for damages pursuant to this subsection, provided the  
43 department has given such person an opportunity, through a fair  
44 hearing, to contest the validity of any such withholding.

45 (c) Any payment made pursuant to this section to any person  
46 receiving temporary family assistance, aid under the state supplement  
47 program, general assistance or state-administered general assistance  
48 shall not be deducted from the amount of assistance to which the  
49 recipient would otherwise be entitled.

50 (d) On and after July 1, 2000, no special need or special benefit  
51 payments shall be made by the commissioner for security deposits  
52 from the temporary family assistance, state supplement, state-  
53 administered general assistance or general assistance programs.

54 (e) The Commissioner of Social Services may, within available  
55 appropriations, [from funds appropriated to the safety net account,] on  
56 a case-by-case basis, provide a security deposit grant to a person  
57 residing in an emergency shelter or other emergency housing or to a  
58 person who cannot remain in permanent housing due to any reason  
59 specified in subsection (a) of section 17b-808 or service of a notice to  
60 quit in a summary process action instituted pursuant to chapter 832, in  
61 an amount not to exceed the equivalent of one month's rent on such  
62 rental unit provided the commissioner determines that emergency  
63 circumstances exist which threaten the health, safety or welfare of a  
64 child who resides with such person. Such person shall not be eligible  
65 for more than one such grant without the authorization of said  
66 commissioner.

67 (f) Nothing in this section shall preclude the approval of a one-  
68 month cash deposit in conjunction with a security deposit guarantee.

69 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) The Commissioner of Social Services may provide a security  
70 deposit grant to a person receiving such grant through any emergency  
71 shelter under an existing contract with the Department of Social  
72 Services to assist in the administration of the security deposit program,  
73 but in no event shall a payment be authorized after October 1, 2000.  
74 Nothing in this section shall preclude the commissioner from entering  
75 into a contract with one or more emergency shelters for the purpose of  
76 issuing security deposit guarantees.

77 ~~[(g)]~~ (h) The Commissioner of Social Services shall adopt  
78 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to  
79 administer the program established pursuant to this section and to set  
80 eligibility criteria for the program, but may implement the program  
81 until January 1, 2002, while in the process of adopting such regulations

82 provided notice of intent to adopt the regulations is published in the  
83 Connecticut Law Journal within twenty days after implementation.

***HS***

***Joint Favorable C/R***

***APP***